

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01294 281734Z

67

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 SCCT-01 SY-04 IO-10 EB-07 FAA-00

DOT-00 USSS-00 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /078 W

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R 281551Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2593

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USINT BAGHDAD UNN

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EO 11652: N/A DECON 1-28-76

TAGS: PINS PFOR PLO XF

SUBJECT: FEDAYEEN DEVELOPMENTS

REF: BEIRUT 1217

1. WE CALL DEPT'S ATTENTION TO FBIS REPORT (BE281100)
OF NAYEF HAWATMEH INTERVIEW IN JAN 28 AN NAHAR, IN WHICH
PDFLP CHIEFTAIN DENOUNCED "SAUDI-EGYPTIAN AXIS" AND
PRESSURES ALLEGEDLY BEING EXERTED ON PLO BY "REACTIONARY"

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 01294 281734Z

ARAB REGIMES TO RID ITSELF "LEFTIST REVOLUTIONARY"

ELEMENTS. HE ALSO CHARGED THAT SADAT, IN RETURN FOR FURTHER ISRAELI PULLBACK IN SINAI, WILL MAKE POLITICAL CONCESSIONS THAT WOULD OPEN SUEZ CANAL TO ISRAELI CAR-GOES, ANNUL DECISIONS TAKEN AT RABAT SUMMIT CONFERENCE, REVIVE JORDAN'S ROLE IN WEST BANK DISENGAGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS, AND GENERALLY DESTROY ARAB UNITY.

2. IN OUR EXPERIENCE, HAWATMEH CAN GENERALLY BE COUNTED ON TO EXPRESS PLO LEADERSHIP'S CURRENT PREOCCUPATIONS FAIRLY ACCURATELY AND, IN SO DOING, TO REVEAL NEWEST TRENDS WITHIN FEDAYEEN MOVEMENT. WE READ IN HIS LATEST COMMENTS AN INDICATION THAT 'ARAFAT AND CO. ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY UNEASY OVER SIGNS (ALREADY NOTED PARA 4 REFTEL) THAT FATAH DISSIDENTS LED BY ABU IYAD HAVE BEGUN MAKING COMMON CAUSE WITH FEDAYEEN "REJECTIONISTS"--OSTENSIBLY TO OPPOSE COOPERATION BY VARIOUS ARAB GOVTS WITH NEGOTIATIONS RE NEXT STEP IN PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT PROCESS, BUT IN REALITY TO DISCREDIT POLICIES BEING FOLLOWED BY PLO LEADERSHIP. WE NOTE, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT ABU IYAD, IN SPEECH DELIVERED JAN 27 IN KUWAIT, TOOK OCCASION NOT ONLY TO CRITICIZE BITTERLY EGYPTIAN PARTICIPATION IN US-ISRAELI-JORDANIAN "CONSPIRACY", BUT ALSO TO CALL FOR RENEWED DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION WITH FEDAYEEN "REJECTIONISTS" IN ORDER TO DEFEAT IT. SEEMS LIKELY THAT HAWATMEH'S REMARKS REPRESENT EFFORT BY SO-CALLED PLO "MODERATES" TO PREVENT ABU IYAD AND HIS NEW-FOUND "REJECTIONIST" ALLIES FROM STEALING TOO MUCH OF THEIR "REVOLUTIONARY" THUNDER.
GODLEY

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